GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3383
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2016
Universal Food Fortification
Selvam Shri V. Panneer

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make universal food fortification mandatory to fight malnutrition and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether consultations have been held between the concerned Ministries and industry executives for implementation of the scheme;

(c) if so, the details and outcomes thereof;

(d) whether the Government has constituted a committee or a task force for finalizing the modalities/guidelines and formulation of policy and legislation/regulation in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the composition and terms of reference thereof; and

(f) the progress made by the Committee/task force along with the time by which it is likely to submit its report and policy/legislation to be formulated?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) The Group of Secretaries on "Education & Health − Universal Access and Quality" has, inter-alia, identified Fortification of food items like salt, edible oil, milk, wheat and rice with iron, folic acid, Vitamin-D and Vitamin-A, with a timeline of 3 years as one of the measures to address the issue of malnutrition in the country.

(b & c) A consultation meeting has been held with stakeholders to evolve a comprehensive policy and draft legislation / regulation on micronutrient fortification.

(d to f) As per the recommendations made during the consultation meeting with the stakeholders, a Task force was constituted for recommending actions/legislation on food fortification by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The task force had representation of all the line ministries/departments/institutions, like Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, etc. The Task force has recommended that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, may bring out a comprehensive regulation/legislation under the FSS Act, 2006 and FSS Regulations, 2011, to ensure effective and sustainable fortification.
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